

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 09067 110349Z

ACTION EA-09

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TAGS: MILI, SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: DOG-BITE INCIDENTS: CONTINUED PRESS PLAY

REF: MANILA 8710

1. REPORTS ON DOG-BITE INCIDENTS IN LOCAL PRESS CONTINUE, THOUGH FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE HAS DIMINISHED. JUNE 7 BULLETIN TODAY RAN LENGTHY FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE HEADLINED, "FOREIGN OFFICE ASKED TO ACT ON DOG ATTACKS." ARTICLE REPORTED DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE MOVE TO RAISE DOG-BITING QUESTION TO DIPLOMATIC LEVEL. BULK OF ARTICLE CITED ACTING SECRETARY OF JUSTICE, CATALINO MACARAIG'S DETAILED EXPLANATION OF INCONSISTENCIES IN GAINES STATEMENT, COMPARING STATEMENT WITH PORTIONS OF USAF MILITARY WORKING DOG MANUAL. ALSO REITERATED NUGUID'S TESTIMONY THAT GAINES ORDERED DOG TO ATTACK FOUR SEPARATE TIMES.

2. ON JUNE 7 TIMES JOURNAL EDITORIAL PAGE BOTH COLUMNISTS JOSE GUEVARA AND ERNESTO GRANADA MADE SHARP
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COMMENTARY ON DOG-BITING INCIDENTS. GUEVERA, CALLED AMERICAN MILITARY DOG "FEROCIOUS CANINES" WHO SHOULD BE "DEPORTED" SO THEY WOULD DIE OF AN "INABILITY TO BITE PEOPLE WHO ARE CONSCIOUS OF THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS." ERNESTO GRANADA, CITING BOTH RECENT DOG INCIDENTS, CYNICALLY COMMENTED THAT CLARK PROBABLY SHOULD BE TURNED OVER COMPLETELY TO THE DOGS, WITH THE FIERCEST DOG REPLACING

THE BASE COMMANDER. HE FURTHER STATED THAT FILIPINO RIGHTS WERE ABUSED BECAUSE THEY WERE TOO FRIENDLY WITH AMERICANS, IT BEING "IN THE AMERICAN PSYCHE TO ABUSE THEIR FRIENDS WHILE RESPECTING THEIR ENEMIES."

3. TEODORE VALENCIA'S COLUMN IN JUNE 9 DAILY EXPRESS

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CITING CONFLICT OVER GAINES DUTY CERTIFICATE, STATED THAT US WILL PREVAIL BECAUSE THE "GUN IS MIGHTIER THAN THE PEN."

4. JUNE 11 BULLETIN TODAY REPORTS ON INSIDE PAGE THAT SCAVENGER FERNANDO NUGUID HAS FILED CIVIL SUIT FOR 110 THOUSAND PESOS IN DAMAGES AGAINST CLARK BASE COMMANDER, SECURITY CHIEF AND SGT GAINES. BUGUID'S LAWYER ALSO ASKED THAT THE COURT ATTACH THEIR PERSONAL PROPERTY SINCE THEY "ARE ABOUT TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY WITH THEIR INTENTION TO DEFRAUD THE PLAINTIFF." BULLETIN STORY NOTES THIS MOVE "UNLIKELY TO BEAR ANY APPRECIABLE RESULT."

5. COMMENT: CURRENT DECLINE IN PRESS PLAY OF DOG BITING INCIDENTS APPEARS TO HAVE COINCIDED WITH CHARGE'S JUNE 7 MEETING WITH SECRETARY ROMULO ON WHICH OCCASION BOTH PARTIES NOTED NEED TO CALM PUBLIC EMOTIONS. GOP'S DECISION TO RESTRAIN PRESS IS EVIDENTLY DESIGNED TO PROVIDE A CALMER ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH PARTIES CAN ADDRESS THIS ISSUE. RELATIVE ABSENCE OF PRESS COVERAGE SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS INDICATION GOP HAS DECIDED TO FORGET ABOUT DOG INCIDENTS. QUITE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CLEARLY THEY HAVE NOT. THEY CONTINUE TO AWAIT SOME POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM OUR SIDE.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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